cujus tamen rei cauſſas, neque ipſus ego indagavi, neque memini, amicos unquam indagaviſſe. Jam, ita ſarmentis cavernam obruerunt accolæ, ut vix adiri poſſit amplius. Quin & avicularum funera rariora ſunt hodie, quam fuerunt olim: quod equidem profundius, quam antea, manantibus aquis adtribuerim. Hæc de his, hactenus.

IV. *An Account of a very extraordinary* Tumour *in the Knee of a Perſon, whoſe Leg was taken off by Mr.* Jer. Peirce, *Surgeon at* Bath; *communicated in a Letter to Dr.* Mead, *Phyſician to His* MAJESTY, *and Fellow of the* College of Phyſicians, *and of the* Royal Society, London.

SIR, *Bath, June* 11. 1737.

AS no one has been more converſant with the ſurpriſing Diſorders to which Men are liable, or takes a greater Pleaſure in their Relief, than yourſelf, ſo I flatter myſelf the following Caſe cannot fail of being acceptable to you.

William Hedges of *Stratton* in *Somerſetſhire*, a Farmer's Son, of 25 Years of Age, of a muſcular healthy Habit, having never known any kind of Diſeaſe; about eight Years ſince firſt obſerved a ſmall Swelling on his Right Leg near the ſuperior Epiphyſis of the *Tibia*, which (to uſe his own Terms) he called a Splint, about the Bigneſs of a ſplit Horſe-bean. As he was not conſcious of any Bruiſe on the Part, and as

as it was wholly free from Pain, ſo the only Reaſon he had to regard it, was from its conſtant Increaſe, which during the two firſt Years was very ſlow; but afterwards it increas'd ſo faſt (though without Pain) as to render him altogether incapable of Labour from the time of Hay-Harveſt 1735.——

Upon taking off the Limb in *May* laſt, I found it weighed, with the Leg and Foot, Sixty-nine Pounds, which (to the beſt of my Remembrance) is Twenty-ſeven more than the Leg ſome Years ſince taken off at St. *Bartholomew's* Hoſpital by Mr. *Gay*, for the like Diſorder. The Operation itſelf afforded nothing uncommon, except the Quantity of recurrent Blood, which, however greater than uſual, ſeemed proportional to the increaſed Bulk of the Part.

Upon examining this ſurpriſing Tumour, the adjacent Muſcles were found deſtitute of their fibrous and fleſhy Appearance (probably from the Preſſure, and great Extenſion, which they had ſuffer'd, and the little Motion which for ſome Years they had imploy'd upon the *Tarſus* and Toes); but the *Faſcia* and common Membranes of the Muſcles, being greatly thickened and callous, adhered to the ſubjacent Tumour; and upon removing this callous Integument, the Tumour appear'd cover'd with great Quantities of Blood-veſſels, much diſtended, and of a Colour more intenſely red than natural.——

The Tumour itſelf was Cartilaginous for the Space of half an Inch from its external Surface; from whence it form'd numberleſs bony Subſtances of various Forms, Colours, and Conſiſtences, which (growing more and more numerous, as they lay deeper) at laſt form'd a continual Subſtance com-

pletely oſſify'd: In the Centre of this bony Subſtance we found about a Quart of mucilaginous Liquor, no ways fetid, (though it was then ten Days from the Operation) whoſe Colour and Conſiſtence nearly reſembled that of *Linſeed Oil*; in which we obſerv'd many little bony Subſtances looſe and floating, ſimilar to many others adhering to the internal Surface of the Cavity, all which had nearly the Appearance of thoſe irregular Incruſtations, which in hollow Rocks are ſometimes made by the dropping of petrifying Waters. After the Operation, every Circumſtance of the Cure proceeded as I could wiſh, and the Stump is now healed.

It ſeems well worth obſerving, that the Parts above the Tumour were very little alter'd from their natural State. The Cartilaginous Extremity of the *Femur* was perfectly ſmooth; nor had the *Rotula* ſuffer'd any other Injury except the Oſſification of the Ligament by which it is fixed to the *Tibia*; but the ſuperior Extremity of the *Fibula* was wholly loſt in the Tumour.

May we not juſtly admire the Goodneſs of a Conſtitution, which could bear ſuch enormous Extenſions in the Integuments, the Tendinous *Faſcia*, and even the Bone itſelf, without Pain and Inflammation? Or can we ſufficiently wonder, that the Fluids ſhould be ſo little diſpoſed to putrify, as to bear ſo great a Diminution in their Motion, and for ſo long Time, without vitiating the Conſtitution, or tainting even the Parts affected? Herewith (Sir) I beg your Acceptance of two Portraits of this ſurpriſing Caſe (See TAB. II.): The firſt Figure repreſents the Limb immediately after the Operation; the 2d Figure ſhews the

the Tumour as opened: In both the Artiſt has ſo far imployed his Care and Skill, as well in preſerving the juſt Dimenſions as in the Colours and Appearances, that I am left only to wiſh, that in the Deſcription, which I have made, my Pen had not fallen ſhort of his Pencil.——I am, with the greateſt Reſpect,

SIR,

Your moſt obliged
humble Servant,

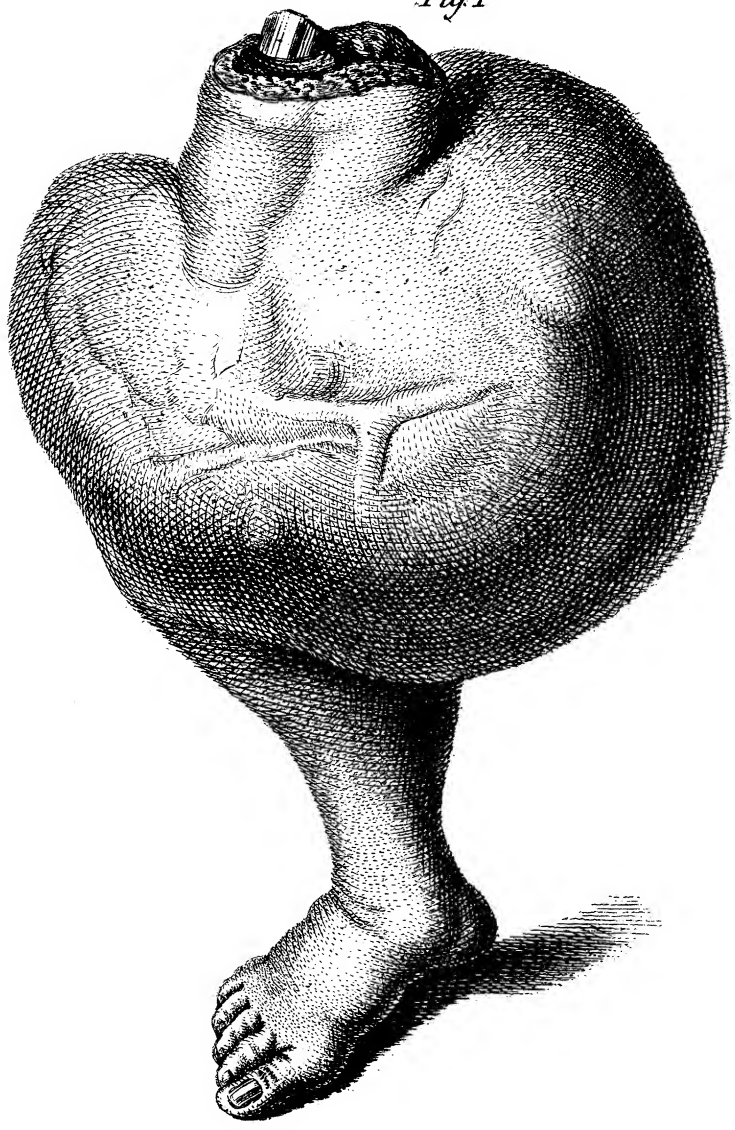
Jer. Peirce.

V. *An Experiment concerning the* Spirit of Coals, *being part of a Letter to the Hon.* Rob. Boyle, *Eſq; from the late Rev.* John Clayton, *D. D. communicated by the Right Rev. Father in God* Robert *Lord Biſhop of* Corke *to the Right Hon.* John *Earl of* Egmont, *F. R. S.*

——HAving ſeen a Ditch within two Miles from *Wigan* in *Lancaſhire,* wherein the Water would ſeemingly burn like Brandy, the Flame of which was ſo fierce, that ſeveral Strangers have boiled Eggs over it; the People thereabouts indeed affirm, that about 30 Years ago it would have boiled a Piece of Beef; and that whereas much Rain formerly made it burn much fiercer, now after Rain it would ſcarce burn at all. It was after a long-con-

Phil. Trans. N°452.

Fig. 1



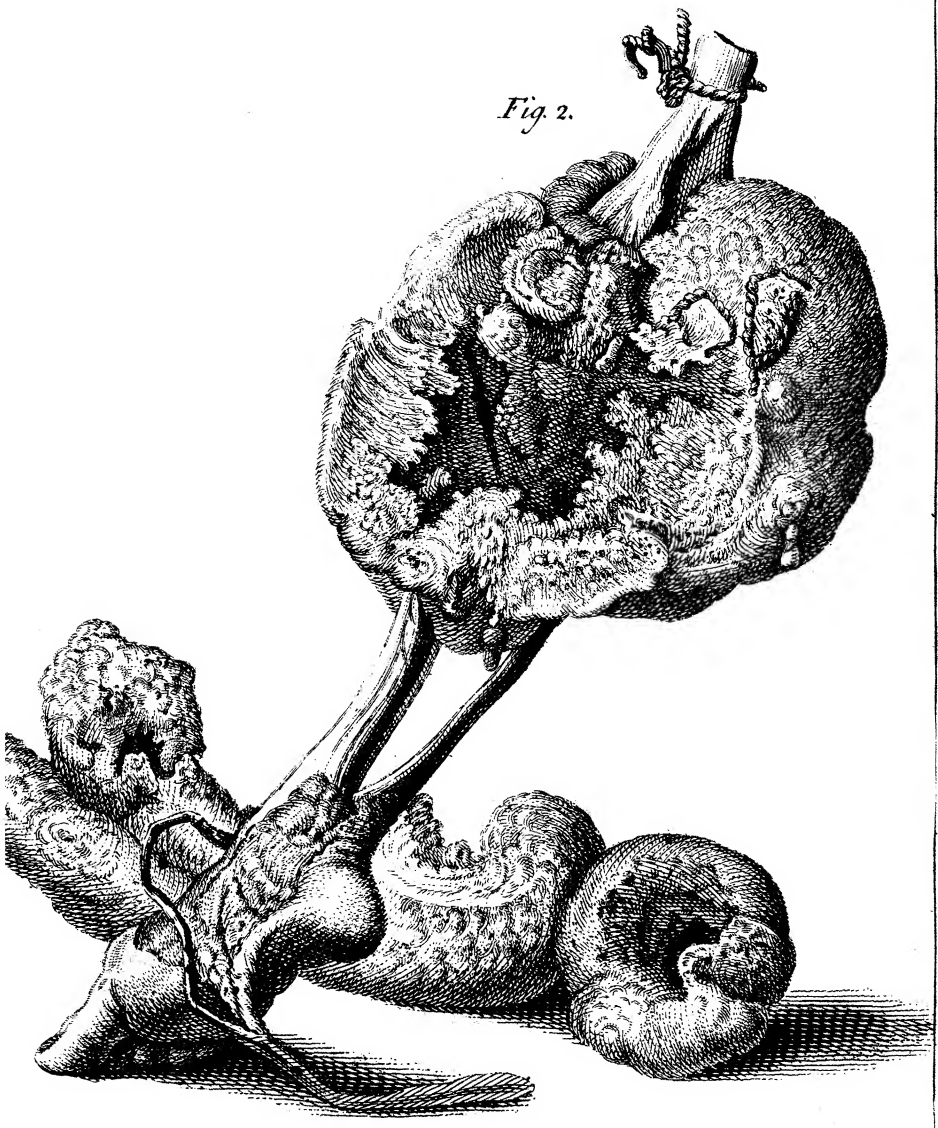
A Scale of Inches

7 14

T. Ross junx.

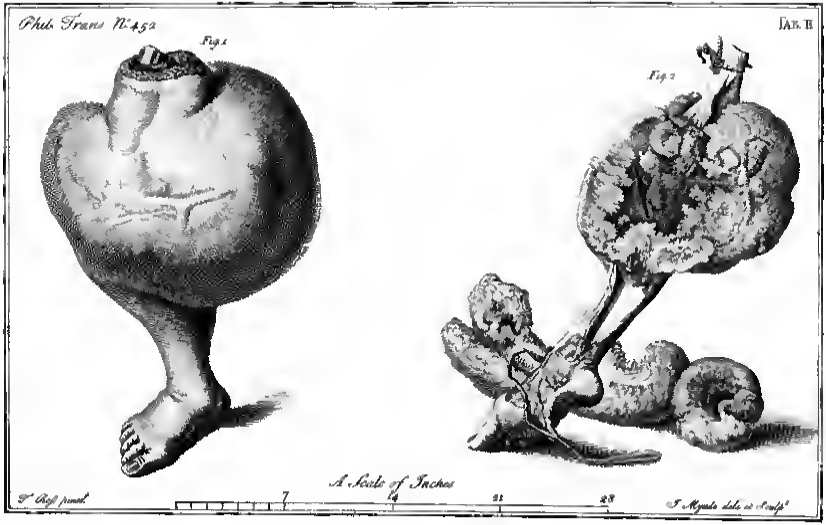
TAB. II

Fig. 2.



21 28

I. Mynde deli et Sculp.t


Phil. Trans. No. 452
TAB. II
Fig. 1
Fig. 2
A Scale of Inches
7
14
21
28
T. Ross pinxit
J. Mynde delin. et Sculpt.